

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Affiliated with the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



September 11, 2022

11:00 AM

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

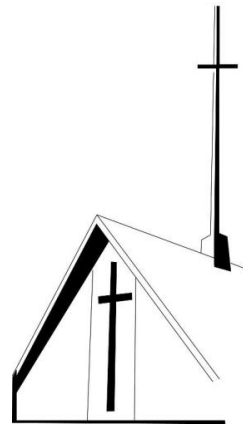
From the Day of Pentecost until the day before Advent, the Church is in the Season of Pentecost. Having moved beyond the holy days of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, we tend to call this long stretch of months: Ordinary Time. In truth, there is nothing “ordinary” about Ordinary Time. It is meant to be a period in the Church year when we intentionally seek to grow and flourish in faith. The green colors throughout the sanctuary symbolize that. So let us grow together in both Spirit and Love.

Today's Readings:

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Psalm 51:1-10

Luke 15:1-10



Theme: “The Extravagant Mercy of God”

Pastoral Team:

Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty, Senior Pastor
Pastor Joy Johnson, Associate Minister

*Whoever you are, and wherever you
are on life's journey, you are welcome
here!*

Prelude
Welcome, Prayer Requests & Announcements

Cheryl Strecker

Centering Music

Invocation

One: Grace, mercy, and peace be with you, from God our Creator, Christ our Savior, and the Holy Spirit, our eternal Advocate and friend.

All: And also with you.

One: Holy and loving God, you call us into worship once more—to bask in your glory and to learn of your unending mercy.

All: Spirit of God, open our hearts and minds that we might receive the truth of your wisdom and to be transformed by God's grace. Meet us again in scripture and sacrament, and also in our song and prayer. This we ask through Christ Jesus, the Holy One of heaven who makes God known on earth. Amen!

*Hymn "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" #48

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small; in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish—but not changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light, thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render, O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

***Opening Prayer**

The Sign of Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with all of you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share with one another a sign of peace.

(You may choose to shake hands, hug, or simply acknowledge one another without physical touch based on your comfort and/or health needs.)

First Reading**Paul's First Letter to Timothy 1:12-17**

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Responsorial**Psalm 51:1-10**

One: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.

All: Wash me thoroughly from iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

One: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

All: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

One: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

All: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Amen!

Gloria*“Glory Be to God, Creator” #145**

Glory be to God, Creator, glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit, known as Three, yet God the One

As it was in the beginning, it is now and so shall be,
In a world without an ending, glory through eternity.

Holy, holy God Almighty! Holy, holy Prince of Peace!
Holy, holy Wind of Presence! Holy, holy, holy! Amen!

***Gospel**

Luke 15:1-10

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

One: This is the gospel of Christ for the people of God.

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Message

“The Extravagant Mercy of God”

Pastor Rich

Song of Response

“Refiner’s Fire” #374

Purify my heart, let me be as gold and precious silver.

Purify my heart, let me be as gold, pure gold.

Chorus:

Refiner’s fire; my heart’s one desire—

Is to be holy, set apart for you, Lord.

I choose to be holy, set apart for you, my Master,

Ready to do your will.

Purify my heart, cleanse me from within—and make me holy.

Purify my heart, cleanse me from my sin, deep within.

(Chorus)

COMMUNION LITURGY

Pastor: People of God, come to the table! Christ promised that as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we not only remember him, but we commune with him by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

All: This is a table of grace. There is room around it for every soul that was, and is, and is to come. At this table, all who are far off are made very near. We come to the table as people who are learning the way of Christ. We confess that we are not always right. But we share this faith: that those who trust in Christ Jesus will grow in the assurance of God's eternal love.

Pastor: And so, here at this Table we take bread and cup and ask the Holy Spirit to make it for us: communion with Christ, who gave his life as the bread of heaven and as the cup of eternal life.

All: Here at this Table we remember that Christ gave his entire life as an outpouring of God's Love—a love that will, one day, renew all things. Amen.

Pastor: People of God, come to the table!

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer ("Debts and Debtors")

One: The Lord be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

One: *Let us pray:* For the prayer requests that have come to us today, whether joys or sorrows.... [*prayer requests are presented*] Holy and Loving God, in your wisdom, meet all of these needs in the perfect way of your grace.

All: God hear our prayer!

One: For those who have been searching for grace and mercy—that they, and we, would believe the good news of the Gospel: God is for us, not against us. God forgives and restores. Always.

All: God hear our prayer!

One: That we would learn to be as merciful as God is, and to so joyfully.

All: God hear our prayer!

One: For all that we hold in the silence of our hearts, we come to you in the confidence of quiet, O God, and lift our petitions privately to you. (*Silent prayer*)... Almighty God, Sovereign of Heaven, shower your blessings upon all people! Move the mountains in our lives, or help to move us so that we might be fully at peace. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray...

All: "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors—and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory forever." Amen.

Offering

Our offerings are first and foremost what we give to the world through justice, kindness, and mercy—and these we can do every day. Our offerings can also take the form of financial contributions to the church to support our ministries.

Financial offerings are now accepted online at:

www.communityunited.church/donate/

Or, if you prefer to mail in a check, that can be addressed to the church at:

1011 West 38th Street – Erie, PA 16508

Offertory Music and Time for Contemplation

As the offertory music is played, let us stay together in a spirit of prayer and worship. Open your hearts now to what Spirit is saying to you—and moving you to do in the days that we have been given.

*Congregational Response (BLUE) #147

“Praise God, from whom all blessing flow:

Praise God, all creatures high and low:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known!

Creator, Word, and Spirit one!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia!”

*Departing Prayer

One: Holy and loving God, your mercy is so great that you seek us out, no matter where we may be—or where we may be hiding.

All: Gather us into your loving embrace! Pour upon us your Holy Spirit, so that we may join with the whole company of heaven who live by your grace, forever and ever. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn “Through the Darkness of the Ages” #536

Through the darkness of the ages, through the sorrows of the days,
Strength of weary generations, lifting hearts in hope and praise,
Light in darkness, joy in sorrow,
Presence to allay all fears,
Jesus, you have kept your promise,
Faithful through two thousand years.

Bounty of two thousand harvests, beauty of two thousand springs;
He who framed the times and seasons has vouchsafed us greater things.

Word of God who spoke creation
Speaks forgiveness, speaks to save,
Gathers still his ransomed people
In the life he freely gave.

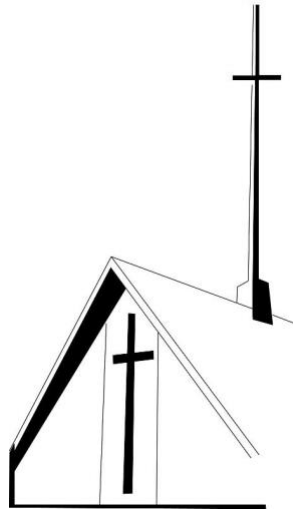
Countless flowers have bloomed and withered, countless noons are sealed in night,
Shattered thrones and fallen empires, realms and riches lost from sight.

Christ, your kingdom still increases
As the centuries unfold.
Grain that fell to earth and perished
Has brought forth ten thousand fold.

Master, we shall sing your praises, man of sorrows, God of power,
For the measured march of seasons shall at last bring in the hour

When, as lightning leaps the heavens,
You return to lead us home.
You have promised, “I am coming.”
Swiftly, our Lord Jesus, come.

**Thank you for worshipping with us this morning at
Community United Church!**



**Next Sunday, August 18: Fifteenth Sunday after
Pentecost**

**ANNUAL FALL MUSIC SERVICE!!
INVITE FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO JOIN US!**

11:00 AM

Readings:

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Psalm 113

John 3:13-17

***Need to contact us for prayer, conversation, or to connect
with a small group or church ministry?***

1011 West 38th Street – Erie, PA 16508

(814) – 864 – 4429

www.communityunited.church



Community United Church

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS THIS MORNING ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD
FROM CHERYL STRECKER**

**THE SECOND SET OF ALTAR FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN
CELEBRATION OF HER MOM'S BIRTHDAY, FROM MARY KUZMA.**

September is CROP WALK month. With participation waning, we are going to try something different this year. We will take a free will offering for the next three weeks. You can find the donation jar on the bulletin table outside of the Sanctuary doors. Please see Nancy or Tracy with any questions.

Coming Up:

- September 7th- RESONATE 7 PM
- September 12th- Council Meeting 6:30 PM
- September 13th- Liberty House Dinner with Veterans
- September 14th- Spirits and Spirituality 7 PM at Calamari's Squid Row
- September 18th- Service Sunday
- September 21st- Concert with Andrew Rainbow
benefitting Liberty House for Homeless Veterans
- September 25th- Breakfast Sunday
- September 27th- Ladies Lunch 12 noon

WE REMEMBER THOSE IN OUR ARMED FORCES:

Jacob Snyder (Army), Nick Duncan (Army), Samantha McHenry (Army), Shelby Wescott (Army) and Mathew Anderson (Army)

PRAYERS FOR: Rod and Dew Johnson, Dan Wingerter, Jill, Phillip Harris, Harry Lamb, Jimmyo, Jimmy Gillespie, Sue Scheiwer, Jesse, Brenda, Grace, John, Julie Davis, Diane Walker, George Churley, Rose, Dick, Skinny, Tammy McIntyre, Robin Adams, Joannie, Brandie, Kathy Koziol, Ralph Kester and Sharon Cooper.

Council Members: Debbie Anderson (President), Bob Martin (VP), Dina Johnson (Secretary), Ginnie Burger (Treas.), Mike Pruzinsky, April Knapp, Patti Rogers, Carol Rodgers, and Angel Hall